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Dear Sirs:

As County Administrator and on behalf of the Ontario County Board of Supervisors, I am offering comments in support of New York State Public Service Commission request for delegated authority to modify area codes outside the context of area code relief pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 251e 1. Earlier in the process, Ontario County petitioned to have the new area code of 585 follow County boundaries. Currently, the County is split between the area codes of 315 and 585. A review of that boundary by your staff will show that the boundary essentially cuts cross country with the net affect to treat the largest city, Geneva, and the eastern towns as though they belong elsewhere than within Ontario County. It is complicated for tourism promotion and economic development since County government, which promotes both, is located within the 585 area code and the tourist attractions and economic development recruitment efforts for the eastern portion of the County are located in the 315 area code. County government located in the County seat in Canandaigua -585 area code- are forced to provide constituents and customers with different area codes for our satellite offices in the City of Geneva. In addition, the County has had to institute an 800 number to allow constituents access to government services simply because those who can least afford it are the most in need of our services. Inter-area code, long distance is often confusing and too costly for these individuals. The cost of the 800 number to County operations exists only because the County is subject to two area codes. Historically, the division of the County by area code has mitigated against consideration of Ontario County as one community.

On September 7, 2000, the Ontario County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution seeking the creation of one area code for all of Ontario County and directed the County Planning Department to undertake the necessary research to develop information on the feasibility of a uniform area code.

We, therefore, respectfully request that the New York State Public Service Commission be granted its request so that the issues and dilemmas caused by different area codes within Ontario County can be resolved.